

REMARKS

The present application was filed on July 11, 2003 with claims 1-21. In a previous Office Action response, claims 1-21 were canceled without prejudice and replaced by new claims 22-41, all of which were pending prior to the amendments herein. Claims 22, 34 and 38 were the pending independent claims prior to the amendments herein.

Claims 22-24, 26-28, 34-36 and 38-40 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,821,936 (hereinafter "Shaffer").

Claims 25, 29-33, 37 and 41 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter but objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

In the present response, Applicant has amended claims 22, 29, 34 and 38 and canceled claims 25, 37 and 41. The amendments made herein are solely for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner, and should not be construed as an admission that the claims as previously presented are met by the Shaffer reference. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuing patent applications.

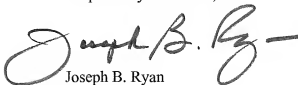
More specifically, Applicant has amended independent claims 22, 34 and 38 so as to incorporate the respective limitations of allowable dependent claims 25, 37 and 41, which have been canceled without prejudice. Moreover, Applicant has rewritten allowable dependent claim 29 into independent form incorporating all limitations of its base claim.

Amended independent claims 22, 34, 29 and 38 are believed allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reasons identified by the Examiner on pages 7 and 8 of the present Office Action.

Dependent claims 23, 24, 26-28, 30-33, 35, 36, 39 and 40 are believed allowable at least by virtue of their dependency upon their respective independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that claims 22-24, 26-36 and 38-41, which remain pending in the application, are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the aforementioned rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph B. Ryan", followed by a horizontal line.

Date: January 14, 2008

Joseph B. Ryan
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 37,922
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-7517